

## *MONTHLY CROP-WEATHER*

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MINNESOTA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE IN COOPERATION WITH THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE  
TWIN CITIES INT'L AIRPORT, UNIV. OF MINN. EXTENSION SERVICE, AND STATE CLIMATOLOGY, DNR

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The following comments are from Minnesota's County Extension Educators  
and FSA (USDA - Farm Service Agency) Offices

**BENTON:** We had reports of barn roofs that caved in partially or totally from snow loads after the February 24, 2001, storm. This resulted in the loss of a few head of cattle. There was damage to other kinds of buildings around the community as well. Daily hauling of dairy manure is getting extremely challenging. It's been difficult to find warm enough good weather to clean livestock lots and pole sheds. There have been reports of dairy farms with sudden breakouts of calf scours.

**BLUE EARTH:** There is snow cover of at least one foot in the fields. There has been some roof damage to farm buildings due to the excess snow load.

**BROWN:** Despite the cold weather, livestock is doing well. Feed consumption is up. Feed supplies appear to be strong. Hay prices have increased. There appears to be some financial stress in the farming community.

**FARIBAULT:** The landscape is still covered with snow and ice. Feed is plentiful.

**KITTSO:** Snow cover is minimal in Kittson County. Patches of black are showing through the snow cover in open areas. Producers have been hauling grain prior to road restrictions going into effect. There is concern with the snow cover to the south as it could affect the potential flood situation. Calving is in full swing. Feed supplies are adequate.

**NORMAN:** Farmers are concerned about a cooler and wetter spring. They have concerns about higher fuel and fertilizer prices, as well as decisions about which crops to plant. Following are some of the questions being asked: "Can we plant soybeans on soybean ground? What's happening to our markets, due to Starlink corn? Should we be planting GMO crops or not?"

**PIPESTONE:** There are a few scattered fields of corn unharvested. With all the snow we have encountered this winter, much of the unharvested corn will not be salvaged. Also, some soybeans fields are unharvested. With the calving season starting up, producers are not looking forward to sloppy ground/feed lot conditions. Local hay sale prices have been creeping upward. The local market is strong.

**PINE:** Several buildings including dairy barns have gone down because of heavy snow on the weekend of February 24, 2001. Some dairy herds have been liquidated and not rebuilt due to the milk price. The hay supply is okay, but the quality is poor due to poor weather conditions last summer. Some of the corn is unharvested.

**RED LAKE:** By mid March, many fields around Red Lake Falls showed patches of black soil and patches of water and ice.

**RENVILLE:** Spoiled sugar beets are still being hauled and spread into local fields. With the latest winter snow storm, all fields are covered with snow. It appears this will not be an early spring! Temperatures have been below normal, with some intermittent thawing which should help lessen the chance for spring flooding. Snow cover of 10-12 inches remains, causing food stress on deer, pheasants, and non-game wildlife.

**ROCK:** After a long cold winter, we are finally getting some warmer temperatures that are starting to melt the huge amount of snow that we have on the ground. The condition of livestock is good. Extension meetings such as the Rock County Crop and Livestock Day were well attended by producers.

**SIBLEY:** Producers are concerned about the amount of snow cover in the fields which could result in spring flooding. There is some concern with predicted snow and continued cold. The possibility exists that spring flooding could push spring fieldwork and planting much later than normal. There are reports of roof and building damage due to heavy snow and ice buildup.

**YELLOW MEDICINE:** There is a light at the end of the tunnel. Snow levels are high, creating challenges for livestock producers and increasing feed requirements. Some buildings have collapsed.

PRECIPITATION AND TEMPERATURE SUMMARY FOR FEBRUARY 2001  
Temperatures during February averaged from 8.8 degrees below normal in the Central District to 4.4 degrees below normal in the Southeast District. Temperature extremes included a low of -32 degrees at Staples and a high of 42 degrees at Preston. Average precipitation ranged from 0.07 inch above normal in the Northwest District to 0.99 inch above normal in the Central District. Greatest monthly precipitation of 2.95 inches was recorded at Staples.

Precipitation and Temperature Summary for February 2001

	Temperature				Precipitation	
	High	Low	Month Ave	Dept. for Month	Month Total	Dept. for Month
<u>NW DIST 1</u>						
Crookston	29	-25	2.1	-5.8	.34	-.13
Moorhead	34	-24	3.6	-8.4	.74	.29
Warroad	28	-26	1.3	-4.2	.55	.06
<u>NC DIST 2</u>						
Grand Rapids	32	-23	7.1	-4.3	1.82	1.28
Intl. Falls	26	-28	3.2	-4.5	.25	-.38
Itasca	34	-27	3.7	-5.8	.97	.37
<u>NE DIST 3</u>						
Duluth	28	-19	7.8	-4.5	1.76	.96
Grand Marais	31	-13	13.6	-2.9	1.46m	.81m
Hibbing	29	-27	4.0	-6.3	.77	.28
<u>WC DIST 4</u>						
Alexandria	25	-24	4.8	-8.7	.71	.07
Browns Valley	39	-24	4.4	-9.1	1.64	1.09
Canby	41	-20	10.3	-6.9	2.09	1.26
Fergus Falls	30	-24	3.1	-8.5	.95	.41
Montevideo	38	-24	7.1	-8.9	1.21	.05
Morris	30	-31	3.6	-9.3	1.65	.95
<u>CENT DIST 5</u>						
Becker	M	M	M	M	1.57	.77
Hutchinson	32	-17	8.6	-7.2	1.05	.43
Olivia	33	-20	6.4	-9.3	1.47	.80
St. Cloud	32	-24	6.3	-8.0	1.44	.81
Staples	31	-32	1.2	-10.7	2.95	2.40
Willmar	31	-21	5.9	-8.8	1.50	.73
<u>EC DIST 6</u>						
Aitkin	29	-21	6.5	-5.9	1.89	1.31
Cambridge	32	-22	7.2	-8.1	1.16	.54
MSP Airport	35	-13	11.8	-6.1	1.32	.44
St. Paul - UofM	33	-14	13.6	-7.2	.92	.07
<u>SW DIST 7</u>						
Lamberton	36	-20	8.2	-8.5	1.15	.58
Pipestone	36	-24	8.8	-7.3	1.56	.94
Redwood Falls	38	-18	8.8	-9.2	.85	.19
Worthington	41	-17	10.0	-7.4	1.05	.28
<u>SC DIST 8</u>						
Faribault	36	-17	9.4	-6.7	1.64	.78
Waseca	35	-18	8.3	-7.5	2.45	1.48
Winnebago	34	-16	9.6	-7.2	1.43	.53
<u>SE DIST 9</u>						
Preston	42	-15	12.4	-4.8	1.03	.24
Red Wing	36	-14	10.5	-4.3	1.23	.40
Rochester	36	-18	11.2	-5.9	1.06	.32
Rosemount	33	-20	9.4	-5.1	2.07	1.13
Winona	40	-11	15.5	-2.5	.86	.12

m=some data missing

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